

S-454
Waters House
Upper Hill
Private

c. 1900

Generally labeled the Waters house by community residents, this two-story, tee-shaped frame dwelling dates to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The asymmetrical form, with its uneven street elevation and block cornices, provides an alternative house form for this historic black community where most houses follow side and center hall floor plans with basically symmetrical two- or three-bay facades. The exterior features of the Waters house, the block cornices and uniform six-over-six sash windows, suggest that the tee-shaped dwelling was erected in one building period.

The chain of title research for this corner lot traces ownership back through to the early 1940s and the purchase of the property by R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters in September 1941. Fourteen years later, in March 1955, R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters transferred the title to R. Abbott and Sybil N. Waters, who retain control of the property. The history of the property for the period 1880 to 1920 has not been fully determined, but it appears the house and lot were owned by a white landowner and probably rented to a black family.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: WATERS HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-454

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-454
Magi No.
DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common WATERS HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 8188 Upper Hill Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Upper Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name R. Abbott and Sybil Waters
% Cindy E. Miles

street & number 5458 S. Harper Avenue 1st Floor telephone no.:

city, town Chicago state and zip code Illinois 60615

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 170

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 447

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-454

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Waters house stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Upper Hill and Joe Moore roads at 8188 Upper Hill Road, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, tee-shaped frame house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating to the late nineteenth century, c. 1880, this two-story, tee-shaped frame dwelling is supported on a brick pier foundation sheathed with metal sheeting impressed in imitation of rusticated concrete blocks. The exterior is clad with a layer of asbestos shingles over weatherboards, and the medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a recessed entrance wall infilled with single-story shed roofed porch. The second floor above the entrance is marked by a pair of six-over-six sash windows, and pairs of six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floor of the projecting leg of the tee-shaped house. The extended eave that trims the base of the roof features plain block modillions. Protruding through the center of the roof at the intersection of the two rooflines is a narrow brick chimney finished with a corbelled cap.

The north gable end is dominated by an early twentieth century exterior brick chimney that rises between pairs of six-over-six sash windows. The extended eave is trimmed with plain modillion blocks.

The south side of the tee-shaped house is three-bays across with a mid twentieth century enclosed shed roof addition that covers the first floor. The second floor is marked by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, and the cornice is finished with a row of plain modillion blocks.

The west (rear) elevation of the house follows an asymmetrical fenestration with a centrally located rear door flanked by six-over-six sash windows. The rear cornice is blocked as well.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-454

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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The chain of title research for this corner lot traces ownership back through to the early 1940s and the purchase of the property by R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters in September 1941. (Somerset County Land Record, 121/76) Fourteen years later, in March 1955, R. Campbell and Bertie L. Waters transferred the title to R. Abbott and Sybil N. Waters, who retain control of the property. (Somerset County Land Record, 170/447) The history of the property for the period 1880 to 1920 has not been fully determined, but it appears the house and lot were owned by white families prior to 1900.

Survey No. S-454

S-454
WATERS HOUSE
8188 Upper Hill Road
Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland
Chain of title

170/447 R. Campbell Waters
 Bertie L. Waters

to

3/24/1955 R. Abbott Waters
 Sybil N. Waters

121/76 Elizabeth Bowser, widow

to

9/8/1941 R. Campbell Waters
 Bertie L. Waters

Conveyed to Elizabeth Bowser By 2 deeds

1. from E. J. Davy May 1918
 WJS 74/580

2. from E. E. Tull 3/28/1919
 WJS 78/119 2 acres

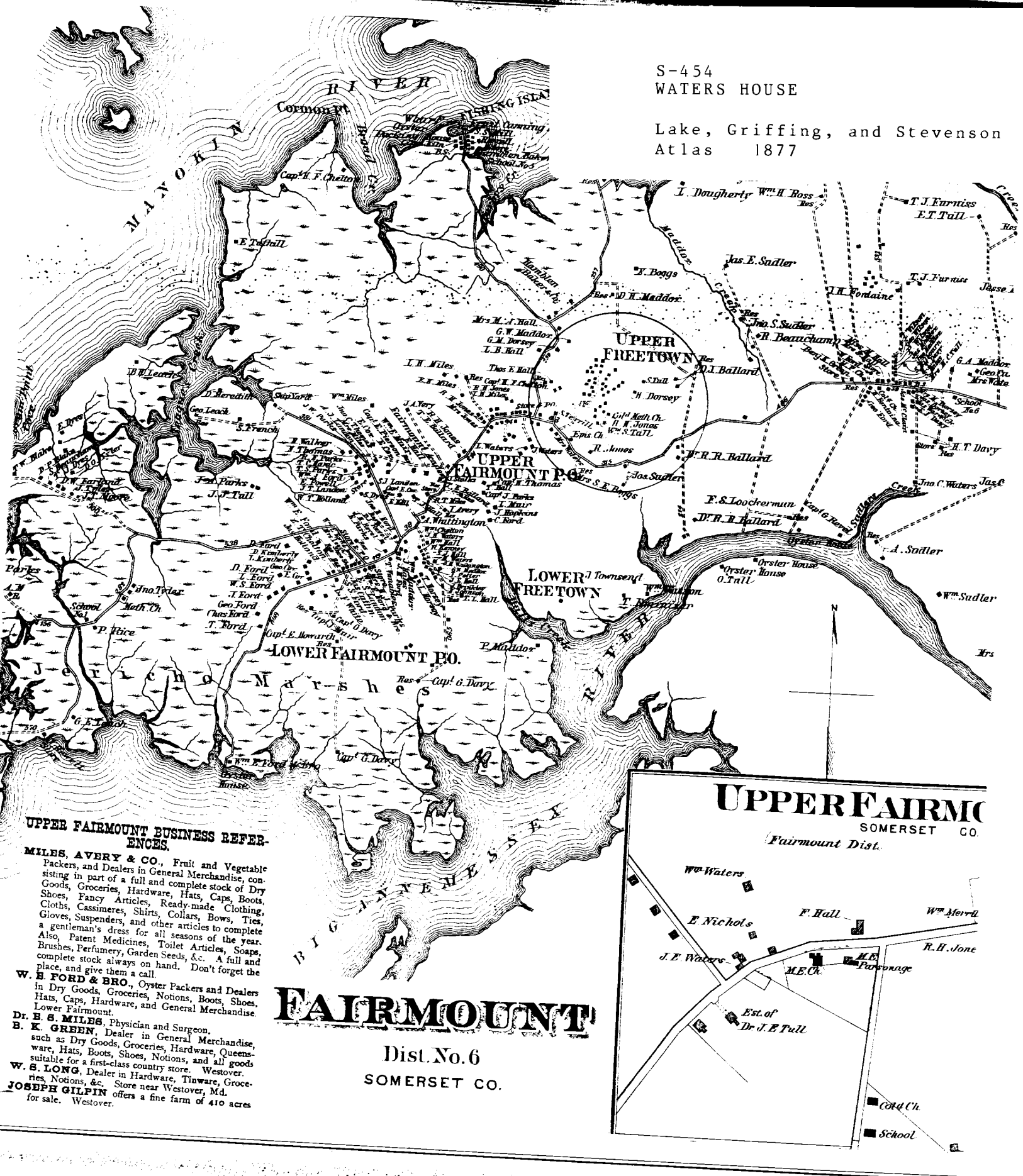
Somerset County Tax Map 39
Parcel 61

UPPER FAIRMOUNT

P. 28 JONES FACTORY

S-454
WATERS HOUSE

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877



MARION QUADRAI
 MARYLAND—SOMERS
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOI

5860 III NE
 (MONIE)

429

430

47'30"

431

1 150 000 FEET

432

433

S-454
 WATERS HOUSE
 Upper Hill, Somerset Co., MD

Marion, Maryland Quadrangle
 1972





S-454

WATERS House

UPPER Hill, Somerset County, Md.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOWNE, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1B



S-454

WATERS HOUSE

UPPER HILL, SOMERSET COUNTY, MD.

NORTH ELEVATION

5/95, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2/3



S-454

WATERS HOUSE

UPPER HILL, SOMERSET CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOURAT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEA. / MD. HISTORIC TRUST

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